Cherna Christmas

This story takes place a few months before Magical Girl Raising Project: Restart

To become a Magical Girl, you need a strong heart, a strong mind, and strong willpower. You also need to have some Magical Potential yourself. However, if you keep these requirements, almost anyone can be a Magical Girl.

Magical Girls can be from anyone. They may be called Magical *Girls*, but gender poses no barrier for it. Boys can become Magical Girls too. In fact, not even race poses a barrier, as you don't even have to be human to become a Magical Girl.

Finding delicious croquettes that are cheap can be quite hard. Sometimes store owners rip you off. You'd find cheap looking croquettes but they're actually burnt out.

Of course, you could go for the expensive ones, though that would mean spending more money.

Food has always been an important part of the Tatehara family. Almost all of them knows how to cook. Some more than others.

Tomoki Tatehara wouldn't have to buy these croquettes if his sister would've gone home like she said.

Usually, her sister Chika would just go back home, but ever since middle school, she seems to always be staying longer at school for 'extracurricular activities'.

Tomoki knew what it was, though. Baseball.

She was suddenly so into baseball, but she never even played baseball. All she does is watch the end-of-school baseball game, so Tomoki didn't really understand why she'd even bother with that, when you can just watch a baseball game on TV or something.

Tomoki had just gotten back from a Trading Card tournament too, but now he had to stop by the croquette shop to buy some food for his grandmother.

He spent the last of his allowance buying the food, and rode his bike back on the way home.

When he passed through the park, though, he figured a good rest is necessary. Thanks to his sister, he had to buy the croquettes first.

The store closed way before the tournament, and because of that, he came in late. He was already registered, so he apparently lost some points, which caused him to lose the tournament completely.

Frustrated, he went over to the bench, sat down, and ate some of the croquettes. The least he could do was enjoy something he earned today.

Nearby, he saw a girl.

She seemed to be hiding and crouching. Her outfit was strange. It was shaped like a mouse, and it had large ears like one too. It looked more like a jacket as well, and a bit like cosplay.

The girl seemed older than him, but she was hiding and crouching in wait.

Suddenly, she dashed towards him, still on all fours.

She stopped in front of Tomoki, and she tilted her head, looking at his croquettes in his hand. Tomoki was slightly confused, but he thinks he knows what she wants.

“…You hungry?” he asked.

The girl nodded.

Tomoki grabbed a fresh croquette from the bag, and offered it to the girl. The girl smiled brightly…

…And then she bit his hand.

“AAAAH!”

The girl chewed on the croquette while biting Tomoki’s hand, still with a happy expression.

After explaining why hand biting was *not* a good thing, the girl sat on the bench besides Tomoki.

“Sorry…” said the girl.

“It’s alright. Kinda weird, but it’s okay.”

“It’s because the smell was delicious, so Cherna ate it… Sorry for biting your hand.”

The girl, Cherna, began rubbing her belly.

She looked oddly innocent, so Tomoki decided to just forgive her for the whole thing.

“So, Cherna, huh? Is that you?” he asked her.

“Cherna is Cherna! Who are you?” she asked Tomoki.

“I’m Tomoki. Tomoki Tatehara.”

Cherna nodded, and Tomoki bowed slightly, introducing himself.

What kind of name was Cherna? Was she some kind of celebrity? It sounded like a stage name. Also, she didn’t seem Japanese from her features.

That, and Cherna isn’t a Japanese name either.

Cherna continued to rub her stomach,

“Cherna’s very full now!”

“Ah, really! That’s great.”

“But Cherna’s not the only one that’s hungry. Family’s always hungry.”

Family? Was she from a big family? Was she a big deal? How much influence does she have, he wonders, also, why doesn’t Tomoki even know her if she’s such a big deal?

“That’s why, you’re gonna help Cherna find food!”

Without warning, Cherna dragged Tomoki. Her strength was incredible, and it felt like he was being pulled across by a large force.

“Wa-Hey! Where do you think you’re going!?” asked Tomoki.

“Tomoki has food. Cherna wants to know where Cherna can get some.”

“I *do* have food, but I can’t get them anymore.”

“Why?” said Cherna confusingly.

“Cause… I don’t have any money left…”

“Why?”

“Er… well, I just don’t.”

“Tomoki is an adult, so Tomoki should answer more clearly,” said Cherna pouting.

“Adult? No, I’m not an adult. I’m just a kid! I’m in elementary!”

Cherna tilted her head in confusion. She widened her eyes like she was shocked. This girl seemed older than him, but why was she so surprised.

“Oh? Tomoki’s a kid? Cherna didn’t realize…”

“Yeah, I’m a kid, so…”

“So Cherna will just have to find new food with Tomoki the kid!”

She dragged him again,

“Eh!? Whoa, hey!” said Tomoki as he was pulled once again by Cherna.

Who was this girl? She was quite quirky and unique for someone Tomoki met at the park. At some point, maybe he’ll talk about it with his sister. What’s he even going to say?

I met an awesome girl today, we started off with her biting my arm, then she dragged me along to find food.

Okay, that doesn’t sound like a good conversation at all.

“We should find some stores!”

“Yeah, but I have no money, Cherna.”

“Oh… We should raid the trash!”

“We shouldn’t… raid the trash.”

“Oh… Tomoki’s right. Most of the food in trash cans are already eaten. Not good for gifts.”

“Well… you *could* say that.”

“Cherna wants to ask you questions!”

“Okay? Shoot.”

“Does Tomoki want to eat cat meat?”

“I… No!? What kind of question is that?”

“Does Tomoki want to beat up musicians?”

“Wha…”

“Oh, Cherna has another question. Cherna’s family lived in a hospital before. They said something about ‘new patience’. What does that mean? Cherna was very patient.”

“I think they mean patients.”

“Yes. New Patience.”

“Yes, the patients of the hospital.”

“Hospitals can be patient?”

“No, um…”

“Shhh! Be quiet Tomoki! There’s a dangerous person in there.”

“What? What dangerous person? Why are we crouched in the corner of a baking store?”

“There’s a ‘granny’ nearby.”

“Okay? I see her, what’s so dangerous about her.”

“Whenever Cherna’s distant family approaches a granny, they always scream and try to hit us.”

“That… I don’t think… that’s a thing… but okay?”

The old lady passed the road.

“Okay, Tomoki. We’re safe now. Cherna will protect you.”

“Cherna’s sweating. Cherna’s outfit is so hot…”

“It is? I thought it’d be perfect for the winter.”

“Cherna has no fur, so Cherna has to use the outfit.”

Fur?

“Cherna, why are you wearing something as… well, fantastic, as that?”

“Don’t ask, please.”

“Okay? Why not?”

“Tomoki’s memory will be erased if Tomoki knows the truth about Cherna”

“I uh… okay?”

It’s been a couple of hours, and they returned to the bench where they came back from.

Cherna started sobbing and crying, and while they had a lot of fun travelling around the city, Tomoki couldn’t help but feel sad that they didn’t manage to find some food.

“Cherna, you okay?”

“*Sniff*… Cherna won’t be able to return home… Cherna will not be a good member of Cherna’s family… Cherna has no food to give…”

The sight of this girl, who seems like an innocent soul, crying like this.

Tomoki resolved to do something about it. He only had one choice. It was late, but worth it.

“Cherna. Stay here, okay? I’ll be back.”

Tomoki rode back to his house as fast as he can, crashing his bike on the front porch as he quickly scrambled and opened the front door of his house.

In the living room he saw his sister Chika.

“Oh, hey Tomoki. You’re home late.”

“Can’t talk… Need food…”

“I can cook you up dinner if you-”

“No, no! I need to give someone food. I need really good quality food… It’s very important!”

Tomoki looked around, scrambling in the kitchen. Opening the fridge, looking in drawers.

Her sister looked at him with concern.

“You alright there, Tomoki?”

“I just need to give this girl some good food, okay? It’s super important, sis. So just lemme think in peace…”

Maybe his room had some good snacks? Most of the food in the fridge were ingredients, and no prepared food.

He ran upstairs, trying to find some kind of good quality food. He doubted there would be any, however.

He searched and searched around the house. No luck. Over 15 minutes have passed, and he was worried that Cherna would go home.

“Tomoki! Come down here, I wanna show you something,” said Chika from downstairs.

“Not now, sis! I’m looking for food!”

“I think I’ve got just the thing you’re looking for!”

Maybe she was right. She was the better cook after all, but what can she possibly come up with in 15 minutes?

He went downstairs, and saw Chika with a large bag with a gigantic lobster inside of it, prepared, cooked, ready to be served.

…What?

“Sis… how?”

“Shh, it’s a chef’s secret! Now, hurry up and give it to that girl you’re talking about,” said Chika, winking at him.

“Oh gosh, I love you, sis! Thank you sooo much! I owe you one!” said Tomoki, hugging Chika, and taking the bag away.

He pedaled all the way to the park, and found Cherna still waiting there.

He gave the bag to Cherna, who opened it with eyes wide.

“WHOA!!! FOOD!!! DELICIOUS FOOD!!!”

Cherna was about to eat it, but Tomoki stopped her,

“Wait! Weren’t you gonna show this to your family?”

Cherna tilted her head, “Oh… you’re right. Cherna forgot. Thanks Tomoki!”

Tomoki smiled at her.

Cherna hugged Tomoki. They both stood up, Cherna looking as bright as ever.

“Tomoki’s amazing! When Cherna grows up, Tomoki will be a part of Cherna’s family!”

“Thanks, Cherna. You’re a pretty cool girl, too!”

“When we grow up, we will have lots of babies and they will be our family!” said Cherna happily.

“W-Wait, what? Um… I think that’s being a little *too* forward, Cherna.”

“Oh… is that not how people do things? Cherna has a lot to learn. Thank you, Tomoki! Cherna will never forget you!”

With that being said, they hugged one last time, and waved a final goodbye.

Anna Sarizae had de-transformed.

Normally, she was the Magical Girl known as Miyokata Nonako, but now she’s just Anna, back at home.

She loved Japan, and she enjoyed living abroad here. The culture was amazing, and she got to become a Magical Girl, too! Just like the Anime shows! Not to mention, she became a Shrine Priestess-style Magical Girl.

It’s as if all of Anna’s dreams came true.

She had a pet hamster, Tama-Chan.

Walking into her room, she was surprised when she saw what was on Tama-Chan’s cage.

A gigantic lobster.

How on earth did this happen?

Well, it’s almost Christmas, so maybe it was some kind of gift from Santa, or the Magical Girl Santa, to Anna, for being a good Magical Girl.

If Magical Girls are real, who knows what else is.

She petted Tama-Chan’s head, and Tama-Chan looked happy from it. Anna took the lobster and prepared it for food. In the meantime, she also gave Tama-Chan some food too.

“Such a good girl, Tama-Chan!”

“*Chuu! Chuu!*” said Tama-Chan happily.

Yeah… Anna loved her new life in Japan.